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THE PARLAMENT OF LADIES.

Or divers remarkable Orders, of the Ladies,
at Spring Garden, in Parliament assembled.
Together with certain Votes, of the unlaw-
ful Assembly, at Kate's, in Covent Garden.
Both sent abroad to prevent misinformation.

[BY HENRY NEVILLE]

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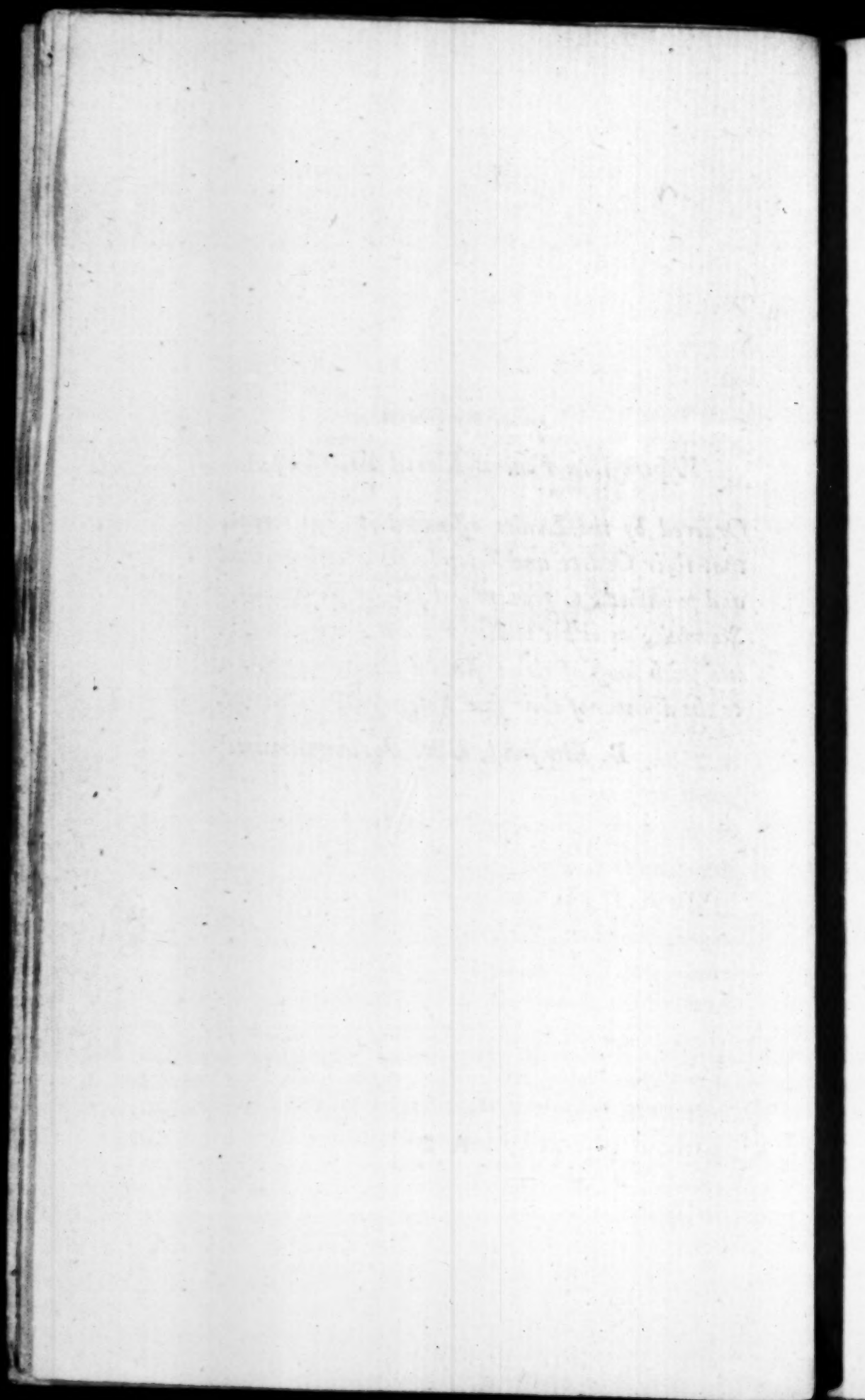
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Vespere Diei Veneris Martii 26, 1647

*Ordered by the Ladies assembled in Parliament,
that their Orders and Votes be forthwith printed
and published, to prevent all such misreports and
Scandals, as either malice or want of wit, height-
ned with snuff of ale or stain'd claret, may raise,
to the dishonor of their said Votes and Proceedings.*

B. Kingsmill, Cler. Parliamentorum.



The Rattle headed Ladies being assembled at *Kate's* in *Covent-Garden*, and having spent some time in choosing their Speaker, [it having been objected against the Lady *Duchess*, that she had used beating up of Quarters, and other Youthful Sports, too frequently with Prince *Rupert*,] they at last resolved upon the Lady *Isabella T—ne*, hoping thereby their Acts might have great influence on the King's Majestie. First therefore, they took into consideration their own Business, and voted, That no Round-head should dare to come into any of their Quarters; and on the contrary, none of their Members, [*viz.*] Cavaleers, do cohabit in any of the Round-head's Quarters, or pay any Contribution to them by way of benevolence, loan, or otherwise.

That Thanks be given to the Lady *M—tague*, *T—ham*, *C—ven*, &c. for their Courtisies and Favors to the distressed Cavaleers beyond the Seas. Ordered thereupon, That their said Ladyships, together with the Lady *S—nhop*, have leave to sell, give away, or otherwise dispose of their *French* Commodities, without paying Excise or Custom.

That Mrs. *Phillips* be forthwith sent into *France*, from the House, to the Lord *M—tague*, to let him know his Lady hath negotiated with the Members of both Houses.

It was thought fit by the whole House, That a Troop of tryed Able Men should be raised, that so, they might be the more secure against all their Adversaries ; but it was long in Debate, who should be Commander in chief of it: For my Lady *N—port* the Countess, moved for my Lord *D—by*, who she confess'd was not the Ablest Man she had convers'd with by many, yet in polling they ought not to despise him, considering how the King favors him; and that if need be, [though he have the Title,] yet they may constitute another under him to go through with their Business. But there was another Lady which much opposed her, and was very desirous that my Lord *G—ring's* Experience might be considered; which perhaps the House had done, had not Mrs. *Kirke* urged his Debauchery, and put them in mind of Prince *Maurice* his Deserts and Abilities, though he did not seem a Courtier. But then the Duchess of *R—mond* assured them, That none was to be compared to Prince *Rupert*, against whom
nothing

nothing could be urged, but that his ill Fortune, that his Labor wanted the designed and expected Fruit; but being cleared of that Imputation by Mrs. *Legge*, [who assured her, that that did altogether depend on his Companions in Arms, and not on him,] it was ordered, that my Lady *Aubigny* should be sent into *France* to desire him to receive the Command. That Mrs. *Camblin* for the Protestants, and Mrs. *Wibarne* for the Papists, be appointed Messengers to attend the House, and that they have the Title given them of Messengers of the Chamber.

The said Ladies in Parliament assembled, did declare, That by their first Vote of this Day, they did not in any wise intend to exclude from their Quarters, the Party of the House of Peers which voted the Bill of Maintenance of the Army out of their House, in that their said Ladyships are understood to be well affected, not Round-heads. Whilst these things were in agitation, in comes a Serjeant from the House of Ladies at Mrs. *Chippes* Assembled, in the Name of which he pronounced this an unlawful Assembly, a Juncto, a Mungrel Parliament, commanding them to confine their Votes and Themselves

to their own Houses, there to continue during pleasure, *Hide-Park*, *St. James's Park*, *Spring Garden*, and *Kate's* notwithstanding.

This put their Ladyships into great Disorder, and more Confusion, than if they had been taken with their Gallants by all and each of their respective Husbands, which is the cause we have no more of this Parliament.

The Ladies well-affected, being [as you have heard] assembled at their House in *Spring Garden*, spent sometime in choosing their Speaker, and the major part pitching upon the Lady *H—land*, she desired to excuse herself, alledging her Husband's Discretion, and further intreated, that all her Right might be conferred on my Lady *C—liffe*: But the said Lady not being fit to be trusted, being too open, the Lady *L—ster* was named; but it was objected by the Lady *Hippesley*, that the said Countess was a Delinquent, and had formerly carried Supplies to the King, pretending likewise that her Husband, *viz.* Sir *John Hippesley* was much damnified in his Estate and Office by the said Supplies. But the Lady *S—sbury* coming in, the Dispute was soon ended, and the Chair conferred upon her [*nemine contradicente,*] who immediately

ately named Mrs. *Peel* Messenger, to attend the House; and the Lady *N—ton* and the Lady *S—leton* to be Door-keepers, with order to keep all out but Members. All this was assented unto, notwithstanding some Exceptions were taken to the slowness of Mrs. *Peele's* Pace; it being aggravated by one, that she went slower than the Masters of *Chancery* when they go on Messages.

Then their Ladyships taking into consideration the difficult Cases which might fall out in the business of their Houses, ordered, That Mr. Doctor *Wetherborne* be sent for from *Holdenby*, and Doctor *Davison* from *Paris*, to be Assistants to the House. Ordered farther, That Dr. *H—ton* and Dr. *C—berlain* be also Assistants to the House, that so with greater Ease and Security their Ladyships may be helped out with their most troublesom and pressing Affairs.

The House then adjourned to the Day following; and being met accordingly, the first business was, to send the aforesaid Message to the unlawful Assembly at *Kate's*; Next, falling upon their Votes, in particular, that part of the Order to be an absolute Breach of their Privilege, which forbids the Cavaleer's En-

trance into the Round-head's Quarters ; and accordingly ordered, That the said Cavaleers shall within two Days depart this City, and not come within twenty Miles of the Lines of Communication ; and further voted, That no malignant Lady presume to walk in the *Spring-Garden* after Twelve of the Clock at Night, upon any pretence whatsoever.

Next, their Ladyships took into consideration the great Number of Delinquents, and ordered that there be a Committee for Compositions, to meet at the Lady *K—nts* for the Protestants, and for the Papiſts at the Lady *Lakes*.

This day a Complaint was brought against Sir *Henry Blunt*, for publishing an heretical and dangerous Doctrine, viz. *That it is better to converse with, and resort to Common Women, than Ladies of Honor* : Upon mature deliberation whereof, the Ladies with much indignation sent for him ; who being come, and hearing his Accusation read, was commanded to withdraw. During the Debate, up starts the Lady *Foster*, and offers to the Consideration of the House, the dangerous Effects that this Opinion might produce, if it were suffered to be sowed among the People,

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to the utter decay of Trade, as also of the particular Commerce of Rhenish Wine in the Must, Tarts, Cheese-cakes, Sullibubs, &c. whereby the profit of the House will greatly be diminished. This Speech was receiv'd by a marvellous Applause of the whole House, and the said Sir *Henry Blunt* was called in the second time, who commanded to kneel, refused, alledging, The House was no lawful Judicature, but appeal'd to the Commons of *England* and *Wales*, which suspended all Proceedings therein for that time.

The House considered in the next place, That divers weak Persons have crept into Places beyond their Abilities; and to the End that Men of greater Parts may be put into their rooms, appointed the Lady *Middlesex*, Mrs. *Dunch*, the Lady *Foster*, and the Lady *Ann Waller*, by reason of their great Experience in the Soldiery of this Kingdom, to be a Committee for Tryers in this Kingdom.

The House being ready to adjourn, there was News of a Quarrel between two notorious Members of the said House, Mrs. *Harris* and Mrs. *Dunch*, and good Council was given them to unite against their Common Enemy, their Husbands; and it was at length

ordered, That they should be reconciled, and *Tom Temple* should be desired to put up his Blade.

The Morning following, they took into consideration the many Garisons of the Kingdom that were to be kept, and which not. Ordered, That *Northampton* be continued in Garison, and that the Lady *S—land* be requested to take the Command thereof upon her, notwithstanding the Self-denying Ordinance.

That an *English* Garison be put into *Carlisle*, to prevent Foreign Nations getting in possession thereof, as is to be feared, by reason of some secret Intelligence had by the *French* Ambassador in that place.

That *Leicester*, *Newport*, *Marleborough*, and all which, are either old or useless Fortifications, be forthwith slighted.

After this, they took into consideration the Standing Forces of this Kingdom, and then several Entertainments; and ordered the Lord *F—ces*, Mr. *S—by*, Mr. *R—ad*, and Mr. *T—ton*, have Pay allowed them, conditionally, that they be provided to draw forth upon Service at the least Warning.

That

That Collonel *C—ke*, Mr. *Henry H—ard*, and Mr. *N—ille*, have free Quarter only.

That the Prince *Elector*, Mr. *G—scocke*, and Prince *Griffith*, henceforth pay their Quarters.

Ordered by Addition of the First Vote, That Sir *John M—ley* be forthwith paid for his Service to this House, notwithstanding his Delinquency, but so, that if he shall break out any more, he shall be irrecoverably put into the Exception.

Ordered, That all such Forces as shall be disbanded, shall be sent for *Ireland*, or otherwise disposed of out of this Kingdom.

Their Ladyships were then informed, that a Message waited at the Door from the House of Commons, and Sir *Peter W—worth*, and Mr. *B—nton*, who brought it, being let in, they found it was for the Relief of maimed Soldiers. Their Ladyships referr'd it to the Lady *P—rough* to be considered, what relief was fit to be given them; to whom was joined Mrs. *H—ard*, [sometime Maid of Honor,] she having purged her Malignancy.

This Day the House received divers Reports from the Committee of Complaints;
and

and first, against the Prince *Elector*, who was accused, that he was not secret to the Trust of this House, but bewraid them in their Service, and instead of doing their Business, did his own. The consideration of this Business was put off till another time; as also another Accusation against the said Prince, *viz.* That he hath deserted his Employment. Both brought in by the Lady *B—rington*.

The next was of some Articles brought in by *Britannicus* against Mrs. *W—ler*'s holding Intelligence with the Enemy; which being found to be true, she was voted to be Laundress to the Prince *Elector*'s Highness.

The Third was an Accusation against the Lord *R—ch*, by the Lady *Mary C—kayne*, alias *C—llen*, who pretended, she had been plundered of Jewels, and other Commodities, by the said Lord *R—ch*, to the value of 200*l.* but it being alledged by the Lady *W—wick*, that it was done to one that had been a Commander against the Parliament; the Accusation was cast out. Then the House adjourned till next Day.

The Business this Day was the Report from the Committee of Tryers, who named in
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the first place, the Right Honorable the Earl of *D—gb* to be a Man of extraordinary Parts and Abilities; whereupon it was ordered, that his Lordship be Commander in chief of all the Standing Forces of this Kingdom, and that his Head Quarters be in *Andover*, until the House have further need of his Service.

Ordered, That the Lord *C—den* in regard of his great Talent, have a favorable Composition at the Lady *K—ts*.

Ordered, That Signor *Ambrosio*, a politic Italian, be had in remembrance, for his extraordinary Pains to content this House; and that when the Affairs of this Kingdom shall be settled, he be put into the *Duchy-Office*: and in the mean time, because what he had before did not content him, he be satisfied out of Mrs. *H—ll*'s Arrears, which are forfeited to the State for some petty Larcenies of hers.

This Business being over, up starts the zealous and well-affected Lady, the Lady *M—may*, and moved, That a public Fast be appointed, for imploring a Blessing upon Mens constant Affections to this House; as also to stop the contagious Infection and itching Humours

Humours now crept in among us, and likely to overspread us all, if not timely stopped.

The Motion was embraced, and Mr. O—aston [sometime Prebend of *Peter's, Westminster,*] together with Doctor S—ald's, Pastor of *Jame's Clerkenwell*, mentioned to preach before the House; but one *Cornelius* brought an Accusation against the Doctor aforesaid, for one ill-affected to the present Government, he having preached lately in his house in a Tub: Whereupon he was rejected, and the Lady K—sington desired, that Mr. S—marsh might be substituted in his Turn, of whose great Parts and able Performances she had long Experience, which was assented to accordingly.

Their Ladyships in the next place, taking into consideration the great Decay of Cattle, and other Beasts in this Kingdom during these unnatural Wars; thought the fittest Means for a Remedy, to be their Ladyships sending [as they did] to the House of Commons, to intreat them, that some of their Members might join with their Ladyships to consider of the said Business. They forthwith named the Lady G—y, and the House of Commons the Lord G—y her Husband, to be a Committee

mittee to debate, and consider the fittest Means to multiply and recruit the said Beasts, to whom they gave these following Instructions.

. That they shall intreat all, or most of the *M—lys* in *England*, and all other Men of that Shape, to marry. That all such Men as have vowed [whether Prisoners, or Freemen,] never to cut their Beards till his Majesty comes to *London* to be encouraged therein.

That Monsieur *Sabran* be intreated, and the Name of the House be used therein, to return to his Concubine here, notwithstanding his Wife be at *Geneva*, for that *Geneva* hath not the same urgent necessity of multiplying Beasts as this Island hath.

The House then took into consideration the Sale of Delinquents Estates; and ordered, That Mr. *H—ington* for his faithful Service done the House, have the Earl of *N—astle*'s Baggage, as also the Lady *D—hire* have *Worcester-house*, [notwithstanding the Vote of the Houses at *Westminster* in favor of the Earl of *S—ury*,] that so her Ladyship may be present with less Trouble at her
many

many and serious Negotiations with the *Scotch* Commissioners.

This Day was presented a Petition from the Lady *S—hop*, humbly desiring, That she might be received into this House, pretending, she was well-affected, was true; but that a *Scotch* Affection mix'd with a *French*, could never make a well-affected Lady. It was further urged, that the said Lady had been in Arms under Colonel *S—gby*, who was ordered to be kept up by this House. The Debate was put off till another time.

A Motion was made for the putting down of Plays; whereupon the Lady *M—mouth* stood up, and desired, that it might be explained what Plays; forasmuch as if they should put down *Inn* and *Inn*, it might prove much to the prejudice of the House, as also to Mr. *Y—ng*, who had deserved well of her Ladyship: But Answer being made, Stage-plays were only understood, She declared, she would concur with the House now Sir *John S—ling* was dead; but truly she lik'd his Plays well.

It was then moved by the Lady *C—mpton*, that a Thanksgiving Day might be appointed
for

for the Recovery of the Earl of P—oke, which was consented to; and Mr. C—decott desired to Preach, and to sing the Psalm in *English*, and not in *Hebrew*.

Ordered, That Thanks be given to Mr. R—inson for his zealous and devout Prayer, that the said Lord might once more climb up *May-hill*.

The House then appointed Commissioners to go to his Majestie, viz. The Ladies of O—rd, and S—ford, together with the Lady M—y, to move his Majestie's haste, and gain the Royal Assent, that so Happy a Union may follow.

This Day also, they pass'd an *Act of Oblivion* to the Lady D—keith, the Lady Katherine S—tt, the Lady A—bigny, and Mrs. R—per for their Delinquency in the Enemy's Quarters.

Soon after, the Lady N—ton, Door keeper of this House, complained of Sir Robert H—low, a Member of the House of Commons, for attempting to deface her, which happened thus; the said Lady being a zealous *Independent*, and so one of the Saints, and Sir Robert having found out that she was likewise Painted, he pretended that she came within his

his Ordinance of Idolatry, Saints painted, Crosses, &c. But some Friends of the said Door-keeper's urging on her behalf, that none did ever yet attempt to adore or worship her, she was justified: And the Ladies hereupon declared, That if any Person, by virtue of any Power whatsoever, pretended to be derived from the House of Commons, or any other Court, shall go about to impeach, hinder, or disturb any Lady from Painting, Washing, or Adorning herself to her best advantage, as also from Painting of Hair, and Investing of Teeth, that Act is a great Breach of the Privilege of the House, and that the Offenders shall be proceeded against accordingly.

In the last place, their Ladyships being to adjourn for some Weeks, desired, That first a main Point of Divinity might be decided: What is meant by the words *Due benevolence* in the *N—w T——nt*; and in order thereto, they sent unto the Ministers of the Assembly, intreating to make some Declaration concerning the same. The Messengers found the Assembly busie about their Affairs, endeavouring to bring the Text, *Kiss the Son lest he be angry*, to prove *Presbytery*; yet understanding

standing their Ladyships Request, they left it presently, and fell upon the Debate of the said *Due Benevolence*, which I do not intend to set down particularly, it being not to be found in the Ladies Journal: Only I hear, that Mr. *Obadiab S—wick*'s Opinion was, 'That if a Man had been absent from his House any time, that then the Conjugal Duty obliged him to solace her now, and anon too, that is to say, twice within the compass of a natural Day. But it being adjudg'd, that no Rule can be observed, for that depended upon Mens natural Constitutions, and Health; it was declared by them, That all, and every Man coupled in Bond of Matrimony and Wedlock, is engaged to comfort his Mate and Fellow-feeler, as often as his Strength and Constitution of Body will possibly permit.

Their Ladyships having received the Definition, desired them to make it *Jure Divino* and to publish it, for that so, no Husband in the Country may pretend ignorance: Whereupon their Holinesses made this ensuing Canon.

Die

Die Jovis 25 Martii, 1647.

It is by these Presents declared and decreed to all the World, by the Council called and met at Westminster, in the Kingdom of Great Britain, That all Men, who have, or shall take upon them the State of Matrimeny, are by their Vows and Sense of H—y W—t, obliged to comfort, visit, and comply with Wives, as often as their Strength of Body will permit and give them leave; and though they should pretend it stands not with their Business, that they be thereunto obliged notwithstanding. This we enjoin and command, under Penalty of being debarred the S— —t, of which we hope to have the monopoly.

The Day following, in the Evening, this Doctrine being brought to their Ladyships, they ordered, That the Speaker of their House should give Thanks to the said Ministers of the A—bly of D—vines, for their great Care and Pains in Reforming this Kingdom,

Kingdom, and in particular for this present Declaration. After which, they ordered these their Votes to be printed ; and so Adjourned till further time.





